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SENATE MEMORIAL 33

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Cisco McSorley

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE THE CAMINO NUEVO TASK FORCE AND REQUESTING THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT, THE WARDEN OF CAMINO NUEVO CORRECTIONAL CENTER AND OTHER CONTRACTORS AT CAMINO NUEVO TO COLLABORATE WITH THE CAMINO NUEVO TASK FORCE ON TRANSFORMING THE FACILITY INTO AN APPROPRIATE GENDER-RESPONSIVE LOW-SECURITY FACILITY FOR WOMEN.

WHEREAS, the Camino Nuevo correctional center houses female inmates who are classified at the lowest security levels, who are close to being released and who require the tools that will allow for their reintegration into our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Camino Nuevo correctional center is centrally located in the Rio Grande corridor, where gainful employment and reintegration opportunities exist; and

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1 WHEREAS, Camino Nuevo's location in the city of
2 Albuquerque allows for easy transportation of the children of
3 female inmates for visitations and familial bonding; and

4 WHEREAS, allowing inmates to connect with their
5 communities and families has been shown to reduce recidivism
6 and to provide more positive outcomes for women placed in the
7 corrections system; and

8 WHEREAS, national research shows that effective gender
9 programming and gender-sensitive environments improve
10 institutional culture, result in positive outcomes for female
11 inmates and reduce recidivism; and

12 WHEREAS, the Camino Nuevo facility was originally
13 constructed to house the most dangerous juveniles classified at
14 the highest security levels, and despite the lowest security
15 classification of women now housed at the facility, the
16 environment continues to reflect high-security incarceration
17 practices; and

18 WHEREAS, serious allegations of sexual assaults upon
19 female inmates have arisen this past year;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
21 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
22 requested to create the Camino Nuevo task force, to be chaired
23 by the chairs of the house and senate judiciary committees and
24 to consist of legislators, the secretary of corrections,
25 representatives from the New Mexico women's justice project,

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1 central New Mexico community college, the Bernalillo county
2 behavioral health collaborative, the university of New Mexico
3 school of architecture, metropolitan alcohol assessment and
4 treatment services, peanut butter and jelly family services,
5 health care for the homeless, the New Mexico federation of
6 labor and the New Mexico women's agenda and other interested
7 and appropriate parties; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department,
9 the warden of the Camino Nuevo correctional center, the
10 corrections corporation of America and other contractors at the
11 facility be requested to collaborate with the Camino Nuevo task
12 force and to allow the task force and other relevant members of
13 the community, as selected or approved by the task force, to
14 assist in transforming the environment at Camino Nuevo,
15 including assistance in educational and vocational training,
16 community and family reintegration, mother-child bonding,
17 employment opportunities, behavioral health services and
18 modifications of the physical environment at Camino Nuevo to
19 meet the goals of a successful low-security facility for women;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the corrections department
22 examine and, if necessary, renegotiate its contracts to better
23 address the goals of transforming the Camino Nuevo correctional
24 center into a model facility for successful reintegration of
25 women; and

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